

the Caucus during this 25th legislative forum weekend.

I would like to convey HHS' strong commitment to the participation of small businesses and small disadvantaged businesses in the work of our department. HHS has an outstanding record in this field, and has steadily increased the number of prime and subcontract awards being made to small businesses in general, and to small disadvantaged businesses in particular.

Our top staff who are here today, Ms. LaVarne Burton, our Deputy Assistant Secretary for Budget Policy Initiatives, and Mr. Verl Zanders, the head of the Department's OSDBU, made it a special point to insure that HHS maintains a strong commitment to the participation of small and disadvantaged businesses in the HHS federal acquisition process. Let me just give you a few highlights of our effort.

Our Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization establishes and maintains outreach programs to provide a flow of information about HHS' Small Business Programs to small, small disadvantaged, and women-owned businesses. OSDBU staff provided personal counseling and marketing assistance to over 2,500 interested small businesses during Fiscal Year 1994.

OSDBU also developed and distributed 8,000 copies of various publications designed to assist individuals and organizations in understanding our mission and programs of HHS.

In Fiscal Year 1994, HHS awarded approximately 41 percent (over \$1.2 billion), of its total acquisition awards to small businesses; and of that amount approximately 13 percent (over \$390 million) was awarded to small disadvantaged businesses. We think this is particularly noteworthy.

In addition, small disadvantaged businesses received approximately 8.2 percent (\$31 million) of the total subcontracting dollars from prime contracts awarded by the Department.

Historically, HHS has exceeded all of the statutory goals for small business participation on a consistent basis.

These achievements are made possible because of broad institutional acceptance and support of these programs throughout the Department.

HHS remains committed to the development and expansion of acquisition opportunities which can, and will, encourage many more small businesses and small disadvantaged businesses to participate in our programs.

In short, we are proud to be a part of one of the best small and small disadvantaged business programs in government!

I would also like to remind everyone about the HHS exhibit table which is staffed by our Departmental small business experts who will have various printed materials and information on hand. Please take full advantage of this opportunity to learn "How to do Business With the Department of Health and Human Services."

Thank you.●

BETTING ON A LOSER

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, Kristina Ford, the executive director of the New Orleans City Planning Commission, had an op-ed piece in the New York Times about casino gambling in New Orleans. Because it touches on a subject that we have not seriously examined as a nation, I believe it merits the attention of my colleagues.

Let me remind you also that Senator LUGAR and I have a bill in to establish a commission to take an 18-month look

at where we are and where we should go in this whole question of legalized gambling.

I ask that the article be printed in the RECORD.

The article follows:

[From the New York Times, Oct. 18, 1995]

BETTING ON A LOSER

(By Kristina Ford)

NEW ORLEANS.—In New York State, opposition to gambling has crumbled in the face of a budget that apparently is to be balanced by windfalls from games of chance. Keno is trumpeted as a solution to the state's \$5 billion deficit, and both the tourist-hungry Catskills and Niagara Falls hope for casinos. Promises of prosperity have also paved the way for a casino in Bridgeport, Conn.

After the oil and gas industry largely abandoned the New Orleans area a decade ago, we heard similar stories, and we can offer advice to lawmakers who believe their fiscal problems can be solved by a roll of the dice.

This week, just five months after Harrah's opened a casino here, The New Orleans Times-Picayune characterized it as "beleaguered." It is bringing in only a third of the projected \$33 million monthly revenue.

The whole gaming experiment here has been disappointing. Two of our four riverboat gambling operations have failed and another is reported to be sinking. Casino operators are seeking waivers from city building regulations that were designed to preserve the historic French Quarter from gaudy marketing schemes more appropriate to the Las Vegas strip.

Two years ago, when the city planning commission asked casino operators what effects they predicted for New Orleans, they gave us revenue projections based on Harrah's experiences in Atlantic City, a city very different from ours in demographics and spirit. They also claimed there would be no limit to the demand for gambling, saying the proof was in the state of Mississippi, where riverboat profits were paying off their loans in 12 months and cities were reducing property taxes. (Seven of the Mississippi gambling boats have failed since then.)

Despite the assurances, we knew that legalized gambling is at best a crapshoot whose projected effects are most frequently stated in terms of anecdotes, cooked-up numbers and promises. The one clearly foreseeable result—families bankrupted by parents with uncontrollable urges to gamble—is often overlooked.

Public policy should not depend on who can fashion bigger promises but on how gambling will really effect a city. Yet as we debated the issue, it was impossible to get a clear picture of how it would transform civic life. Would it increase or decrease our considerable crime rate? What would be the effect on our poorest neighborhoods? How would it effect our essential tourist business?

So the city has instituted a five-year study to assess what gambling will do to our fiscal well-being and community life. We will study how the industry has affected other businesses, determine whether tourists perceive the city's attractions differently now and measure the consequences of gambling on families. Harrah's is paying for the research, but the work is being conducted by a consortium of local universities, which will make annual reports.

Arguments over casino regulation will dominate the City Council's agenda for years. Our study should give us reliable information for these debates. Should we permit restaurants in the casinos? Should we allow large billboards and flashing light dis-

plays in our downtown? With any luck, policy decisions will be based on something other than developers' promises and entrepreneurial baloney.

New York and Connecticut would be wise to pay attention to our experience and to establish their own commissions to measure performance against promises and to fight facts with facts.●

RETURN TO SOMALIA

● Mr. SIMON. Mr. President, the former U.S. Ambassador to Somalia, Frank Crigler, had an op-ed piece in the Washington Post on Somalia.

The first few paragraphs may have been written tongue-in-cheek. I am not sure. If not, Ambassador Crigler is wrong.

But the remaining three-fourths of his op-ed piece are correct.

When he talks about "the Somalia disaster," if he is referring to what we did, there is no question that hundreds of thousands of lives were saved. I do not count that a disaster.

Some mistakes were made. We had a retired American military officer, acting for the United Nations, who made some decisions that probably looked correct from a military point of view, but would not have been made had he consulted with former Ambassador Robert Oakley. That decision resulted in the needless deaths of 19 American service personnel, 1 of whom we saw dragged through the streets on our television sets. The combination of this repulsive action, and our being there to help save lives, caused many in Congress to say that we should pull our troops out. In reality, in 1993, there were more cab drivers killed in New York City than American service personnel killed in Somalia.

Ambassador Crigler describes the Somalia action as "George Bush's embarrassing last hurrah," my own guess is that history will view it as his finest hour. George Bush made the right decision, a courageous decision. Without that decision, many lives would have been lost, and the attitude in the Moslem nations of the world, would have hardened against the United States. They would have rightly sensed that if Somalia had been a white, Christian, or Jewish nation, the United States would have responded. Ambassador Crigler says that the Somalia action "was Bill Clinton's first big foreign policy flop." There is some truth to that. It is difficult to move from Governor of Arkansas to become the most influential person in foreign policy, particularly if you have not been interested in foreign policy that much prior to this occasion. Had Bill Clinton been able to explain to the American people why we were there and that we were going to stay there for a while until some semblance of order was restored, the American people would have understood, and American leadership would have become more trusted in the world.

In terms of the three basic lessons that Ambassador Crigler mentions, he